

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*): Such instances are very rare.

ANCHAL CARDS—REDUCTION OF COST

385. Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): Will the Government be pleased to state.—

- (a) whether they will be pleased to note the size of the Ceylon Post card when compared with our Anchal card;
- (b) whether the Government be pleased to note the cost of the card is only 3 cents which is approximately below 6 pies even though this card goes at least the whole of India;
- (c) whether the Government be pleased to note also the price of the Travancore Anchal card (which is of the same size as our Anchal card if not bigger) will come to only about 3 pies in value;
- (d) whether the Government be pleased to reduce the price of our Anchal card also to 3 pies even with a reduction of size to the Ceylon card?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*):

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) No.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): Is not the cost price so high when compared with the area that is communicated and by reduction of one pie and by reducing the size of the card will not the people be benefitted to a great extent? Government will not lose revenue also because the area is limited. Cannot the Government more sympathetically view this question?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*): It is not a question of sympathy. So far as our Anchal Department is concerned, the price of British post-card is 9 pies, and we have put it at 4 pies. We have to compete with the British system and make our department self-supporting. There is no reason why we should copy the Travancore rule or why we should reduce the size. Moreover a resolution has been tabled on this matter. I shall be explaining the details fully when that resolution is moved.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): The price of our cards was raised to 4 pies.

Mr. President: I am now going to discourage the practice of discussion during question time. I must now insist upon the members to ask questions and not go on making statements and indulging in discussions giving explanations, etc.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): May I know whether the Government have examined this with reference to the suggestion by the members here that the price of cards must be reduced?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*): We have examined it. I shall be giving details when the resolution is moved. It is found that our loss will be more than 1,500 rupees which the department cannot lose.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): Is not the Anchal Department working at a profit?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*): It has to work at a profit.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*): Does not the Travancore card cost $3\frac{1}{2}$ pies?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*): A little more than 3 pies.

ANCHAL RATES—REDUCTION OF

386. Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): Will the Government be pleased to note,—

- (a) the Anchal rate for a letter weighing over $\frac{1}{2}$ tola and below 1 tola is one anna ;
- (b) whether the same rate of postage is charged for the postal envelope for the whole of India for the same weight ;
- (c) if the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, whether the Government be pleased to note the reduction of this rate to 9 pies will not enhance the Anchal revenue ;
- (d) whether they have compared the postal rates for every additional tola for a letter weighing over one tola is only 6 pies when we charge for every additional $2\frac{1}{2}$ tolas one anna for Anchal letters above $2\frac{1}{2}$ tolas in weight ;
- (e) considering the limited area to which our Anchal articles can go, will the Government be pleased to reduce the Anchal rates generally for all articles